

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 171700Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5712
INFO US MISSION USUN 459
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 4519

EXDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR ROBERT PASTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) PN, CS, NU, FT, VE, DR
SUBJECT: ODUBER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND ROBERT PASTOR OF NSC MET WITH EX-PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER OF COSTA RICA AUGUST 15 AT ODUBER'S REQUEST IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RESIDENCE. MESSRS. BLACKEN AND TYSON OF USUN ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING. DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PROBLEMS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, PARTICULARLY NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA, JAMAICA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, BELIZE AND THE STATE OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WERE DISCUSSED. KEY POINTS OF THE CONVERSATION ARE SUMMARIZED HEREIN.

2. ODUBER COMPLIMENTED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS POSITIVE POLICIES VIS A VIS LATIN AMERICA. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED OVER THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THAT THE U.S. HAD PLAYED, TOGETHER WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION, IN ASSURING THAT THE
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WILL OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE, AS EXPRESSED IN THE ELECTIONS WAS RESPECTED AND A TRANSFER OF POWER ACCOMPLISHED.

3. THE SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REMAINED DELICATE AND DANGEROUS. ODUBER SAID PRESIDENT GUZMAN WOULD HAVE TO ENGAGE IN DECISIVE AND "RADICAL SURGERY" BY REMOVING CERTAIN MILITARY MEN FROM THEIR POSITIONS QUICKLY. NEIT NIVAR WAS MENTIONED SPECIFI-

CALLY.

4. ODUBER EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND SAID THAT COSTA RICA AND OTHERS -- INCLUDING VENEZUELA -- WERE WORKING TOWARD CREATION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA. PROBLEM COUNTRIES WERE NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA, AND EL SALVADOR. IN THE LATTER TWO CHANGE COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LONG-TERM. BUT IN NICARAGUA PROSPECTS WERE BETTER. COSTA RICA WAS PUSHING SOMOZA IN A FIRM BUT FRIENDLY MANNER "TO DO WHAT YOU WANT HIM TO DO" I.E., EVOLVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY. SOMOZA, HE SAID, RECOGNIZES THAT HE MUST MAKE A DEMOCRATIC OPENING, PERHAPS IN 1981. HE IS ENCOUNTERING SOME OPPOSITION FROM HIS SON.

5. ON BELIZE, ODUBER FELT A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND IN WHICH GUATEMALA WOULD GIVE UP ITS CLAIM. THE SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO AVOID HURTING THE PRIDE OF GUATEMALAN MILITARY MEN. FOR THE MOMENT, GUATEMALA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD NOT TAKE ANY INITIATIVES. HE WAS BUSY ATTENDING TO INTERNAL POLITICS AND BECOMING POLITICALLY MORE SECURE.

6. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, ODUBER SAID, WAS DETERIORATING. IT WAS INCREASINGLY CHAOTIC. KILLING WAS GOING ON ALL OVER IN RANDOM FASHION. THE MILITIA HAD NO UNIFIED COMMAND. IN THE FACE OF THIS, SOMOZA WAS MAKING MOVEMENTS TOWARD DEMOCRACY. POSSIBLY A TWO-PARTY JUNTA COULD BE PUT TOGETHER FOR A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. A JUNTA LED BY QUINTANO (PHONETIC) AND LOBO
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WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. SOMOZA WOULD STEP ASIDE PROVIDED THAT "THEY DON'T PUSH HIM TO THE WALL" OR THREATEN TO TAKE AWAY HIS PROPERTY. THE U.S., ACCORDING TO ODUBER, WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PERSUADING SOMOZA TO MAKE CHANGES AND IN HELPING DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA.

7. THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IN GUATEMALA WAS ALSO DETERIORATING. PARA-MILITARY GROUPS WERE OUT OF CONTROL AND TERRORIZING THE COUNTRYSIDE. KEY PEOPLE WERE BEING KILLED ALMOST EVERY DAY. ODUBER ASSERTED THAT HE HAD GOOD INFORMATION THAT THESE RIGHT-WING GROUPS, NOT LEFTISTS AS PREVIOUSLY SUPPOSED, HAD KILLED BORGONOVO. THESE GROUPS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, WERE ENGAGED IN ARMS AND DRUG SMUGGLING.

8. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ECONOMIES OF COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND PARTICULARLY JAMAICA. HE NOTED THAT MANLEY WAS BEING BUFFETED FROM BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT. THE U.S. WAS DOING ITS BEST TO HELP THE REGION WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND THROUGH MULTILATERAL AID CHANNELS, BUT THE OVERALL EFFORT WOULD NOT MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS. ODUBER RECOGNIZED THIS AND SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET MEXICO MORE INVOLVED. HE HOPED TO DRAW MEXICO AND VENEZUELA INTO GREATER COLLABORATION.

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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9. MR. PASTOR SAID THAT THE U.S. ENVISIONED LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR BOTH VENEZUELA AND MEXICO IN THE CARIBBEAN. UNFORTUNATELY, MEXICO'S INITIATIVE IN CALLING FOR AN ARMS CONTROL CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 21 WITHOUT HAVING CONSULTED VENEZUELA IN ADVANCE HAD CAUSED TENSION. ODUBER STRESSED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD HELP IN PERSUADING THE MEXICANS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THE VENEZUELANS. THE MEXICANS SHOULD BE MADE TO REALIZE THAT IT WOULD BE IN THEIR INTEREST TO CONSULT WITH VENEZUELA IN PLANNING THE ARMS CONTROL CONFERENCE.

10. ODUBER SAID COSTA RICA WAS QUIETLY NUDGING TORRIJOS IN PANAMA TO MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY. IT WAS PROVIDING "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" IN THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL GROUP SUPPORTING TORRIJOS AND ALSO FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY HEADED BY SAMUDIO. AGAIN ON NICARAGUA, ODUBER SAID CASTRO APPEARED TO BE HELPING ONE GROUP OF SANDISTAS WHILE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND TORRIJOS WERE PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ANOTHER GROUP.

11. IN PERU, MORALES BERMUDEZ APPEARED TO BE READY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING THE GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIAN HANDS.

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